

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 450

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles Robert Terry of Russellville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Robert Terry of Russellville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Terry was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years, Charles Terry served with acumen and alacrity as a trial lawyer, in private practice for most of those years, in which position he earned the respect of his clients, his colleagues, members of the bench and bar, and all those who knew him for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, while Charles Terry accomplished and experienced so much over the course of his rich life, his family, with whom he worked, vacationed, and spent as much time as possible, was his most precious achievement; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply grateful that he could spend his days at his law office with several members of his family; his daughter, Denise, his two sons, Brack and Chuck, and his assistant of twenty years, Cheri Mullins, were all boon companions, as well as trusted colleagues; and

WHEREAS, as an undergraduate, Mr. Terry attended East Tennessee State University on a basketball scholarship; when he decided to pursue a career in law, he began to devote himself to his studies with even greater enthusiasm and focus; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from East Tennessee State, Charles Terry began his law school education at Duke University, but he realized that he preferred East Tennessee to

Durham and transferred to the University of Tennessee Law School, from which he graduated in 1956; and

WHEREAS, he earned his license to practice law in 1957, and served in the United States Army as an officer in the Judge Advocate General Corps; he was stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama, for most of his military service; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to Tennessee, Mr. Terry began his civilian law career in Greeneville, but he soon moved his practice to Morristown, where he started Charles R. Terry and Associates, now known as Terry, Terry, and Stapleton; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated much of his career to consumer advocacy, fighting on behalf of those who could not defend themselves against mightier interests; he obtained a number of multimillion-dollar awards against some of the world's largest companies in his effort to make products safer and prevent large corporations from taking advantage of their customers; and

WHEREAS, Charles Terry also secured a number of verdicts against the Southern and Norfolk Southern Railways in his fight to make highway grade crossings safer; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s and 1980s, Mr. Terry defended several Tennessee Walking Horse trainers, and the industry as a whole, from vigorous legal obstacles mounted by the government; and

WHEREAS, many attorneys benefitted from Mr. Terry's expert guidance and sage advice in their early careers, working at his firm under his supervision until they were able to begin their independent practices; many lawyers will fondly remember their apprenticeship in the "Charles Terry Catch and Release Program"; and

WHEREAS, a valued and upstanding member of his profession, Charles Terry served as President of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association from 1968 to 1969 and President of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Terry also lectured at Harvard University for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and he was a member and Chairman of the Committee on Admissions to the United States District Court in Greeneville; and

WHEREAS, a vital member of his community, Charles Terry was especially fond of the people he met and the good he accomplished as a member of the Andrew Johnson Bank Board

of Directors from 1982 forward; he also served that institution in a number of other leadership roles, in addition to his Board membership; and

WHEREAS, an active supporter of Walters State Community College, Mr. Terry served as President of the school's Foundation and counted himself an avid fan of the Walters State basketball and baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, Charles Terry became a Tennessee Walking Horse enthusiast himself; together with his brother, Fred Terry, he owned several fine specimens of the breed, and many of them became local champions; and

WHEREAS, with his wife, Florence, Mr. Terry won World Grand Championships with Motown Motion and Doc's Nothin' Nicer with Wink Groover in 1994, and in 2001 they won the Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration World Grand Championship with Pride's Jubilee Encore and Allan Callaway; and

WHEREAS, Charles Terry was an active and devout member of Trinity United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully over the years in a number of roles, including Chair of the Administrative Council; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-two years, Florence Hawkins Terry, and he was very proud of his children and their spouses: daughter Denise Terry Stapleton and her husband, Mark; son Charles Robert (Chuck) Terry, Jr., and his wife, Kathy; and son Fred Braxton (Brack) Terry and his wife, Jana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Terry is also survived by his six grandchildren, Gabriel Charles (Gabe) Stapleton, Jacquelyn Jones, Cassidy Widner, Jake Terry, John Robert Terry, and Alexander (Alex) Terry; his brother, Fred Terry; and several nieces, nephews, and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his mother, Janie Southern Terry, and his grandmother and grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Southern; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Terry leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional attorney, citizen, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charles Robert Terry, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Terry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.